

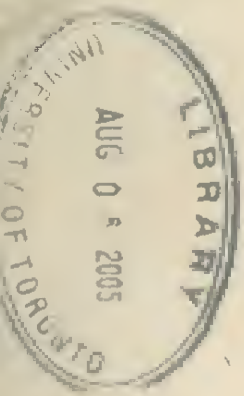
# ZARATHUSHTRA



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Zarathushtra is the name of the prophet of the Parsis as it appears in the Avesta, their oldest scriptural text. In later writings the name appears as 'Zartusht, Zardosht'. In the ancient Greek writings the name of the prophet appears in various forms, but the most common form is "Zoroaster", which is generally used in English and other European languages.

Zarathushtra lived and preached his religion in antiquity, in pre-historic times. His life-history, therefore, is not adequately known. But tradition has preserved the prophet's life-story as recorded in the late writings of the 9th century. These writings are evidently based on older sources. The life-story of the prophet given in this booklet is taken from the said traditional account.

The religion preached by Zarathushtra is based on the principle of Avesta arta—which signifies 'truth, law, divine cosmic law'. It is explained and expounded in simple language: humata hukhta hvarshta—'good thought', 'good word', good deed'. The principle of divine justice is: BAD UNTO THE DOERS OF BAD, GOOD BLESSING UNTO DOERS OF GOOD.

The Zoroastrians once numbered millions, during the time of their empires (about 6th century B.C. to 7th century A.D.). After the downfall of the empire of the Sasanians about the middle of the 7th century, their numbers dwindled in Iran. Then some of them left Iran and migrated to India. At present the world population of the Parsis may be estimated at 130,000 souls—about 101,000 in India, about 18,000 in Iran, about 6,000 in Pakistan, and about 5,000 in Europe, America and other places of the world.

H. K. Nasta

OUR NEXT TITLE : THE LORD OF LANKA

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# ZARATHUSHTRA

THOSE WERE EVIL TIMES  
IN ANCIENT PERSIA.



O, AHURA MAZDA, SEND  
US A SAVIOUR. LET THE  
PAST GLORY RETURN  
TO THIS EARTH.



AT THAT TIME, IN THE  
CITY OF RAE LIVED  
FRAHIMURVA AND HIS  
DAUGHTER DUGHDHOWA.

SEND YOUR  
DAUGHTER  
AWAY,  
FRAHIMURVA.  
SHE PORTENDS  
EVIL.

YES, THIS  
RADIANCE  
COVERING HER  
IS AN EVIL OMEN.  
THROW HER  
OUT.



MY CHILD,  
WE MUST LISTEN  
TO THE WISE MEN.  
BUT I CANNOT  
BEAR TO SEE  
YOU GO.



OH, FATHER, PLEASE  
LET ME STAY WITH YOU.  
WHO WILL LOOK AFTER  
YOU WHEN YOU  
ARE OLD ?

NO, CHILD, WE MUSTN'T THINK  
ONLY OF OURSELVES. GO. MY  
GOOD FRIEND  
PAITARASP  
AWAITS  
YOU.





OVERCOME BY GRIEF,  
BOTH FATHER AND  
DAUGHTER STOOD  
SILENT FOR A WHILE.  
THEN —

LOOK AFTER  
YOURSELF,  
FATHER. DON'T  
FORGET ME.

MAY  
AHURA  
MAZDA  
BLESS  
YOU, MY  
CHILD.

WHEN DUGHDHOWA  
REACHED PAITARASP'S  
HOUSE —

WELCOME DUGHDHOWA,  
DAUGHTER OF MY DEAREST  
FRIEND. THIS  
IS YOUR  
HOME NOW.

THIS IS POURUSHASP.  
IT IS YOUR FATHER'S  
WISH THAT YOU MARRY  
HIM.

WHAT A  
LOVELY  
GIRL! I AM  
INDEED  
LUCKY.

WHAT A  
HANDSOME  
MAN. I SHALL  
BE PROUD TO  
BE HIS WIFE.

THEY WERE SOON MARRIED. A FEW MONTHS LATER  
DUGHDHOWA BECAME PREGNANT. ONE NIGHT -





THE NEXT MORNING -

MY DEAR, YOU  
LOOK FRIGHTENED.  
WHAT IS THE  
MATTER ?

I HAD A  
TERRIBLE  
DREAM.

THE SAME DAY, POURUSHASP  
SOUGHT THE HELP OF THE  
WISE MEN.

TELL ME.  
WHAT DOES  
THE DREAM  
MEAN ?

O POURUSHASP,  
YOU ARE INDEED  
BLESSED. YOUR  
SON WILL BE A  
GREAT MAN.

HE WILL BE  
THE MESSEN-  
GER OF GOD  
AND WILL TEACH  
THE WORLD A  
RELIGION OF  
LOVE AND JUSTICE.

BUT HE  
WILL SUFFER.  
JEALOUS MEN  
WILL TRY TO  
DESTROY HIM  
AND HIS  
RELIGION.

AT LAST, ONE SPRING DAY,  
ZARATHUSHTRA WAS BORN.

LET US CALL HIM ZARATHUSHTRA.  
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT HE  
SMILED INSTEAD OF CRYING  
WHEN HE WAS BORN?



DURASROB, THE HEAD PRIEST  
WHO WAS ACTUALLY A SORCERER,  
KNEW ZARATHUSHTRA TO BE A  
THREAT TO ALL FORCES OF EVIL—

THE CHILD  
MUST NOT  
LIVE. I  
SHALL  
KILL HIM.



SO ONE DAY HE STOLE THE  
BABY AND —







HAVING FAILED IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT, DURASROB DECIDED TO TRY AGAIN.



ONCE AGAIN THE CHILD WAS SAVED.



THE EVIL MAN, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ACCEPT DEFEAT SO EASILY. HE TOOK THE BABY INTO A FOREST.



YOU WILL NOT  
ESCAPE THIS TIME.  
THE WOLVES WILL  
TEAR YOU TO  
PIECES.



BUT THE WOLVES  
TOOK ONE LOOK AT  
THE HOLY CHILD  
AND SLUNK AWAY.





DURASROB SEETHED  
WITH RAGE.

I SHALL BURN YOU  
TO DEATH.



BUT THE FIRE TURNED INTO A  
BED OF FRAGRANT ROSES.



MY DARLING BABY.  
HOW DID YOU GET  
HERE? I NEARLY  
DIED WITH WORRY.



A YEAR LATER, ZARATHUSHTRA  
FELL ILL.

OH, WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN TO MY  
BABY?

I SHALL  
SEND FOR  
DURASROB. HE  
WILL CURE OUR  
CHILD.

AS SOON AS DURASROB CAME-

SIR, MY SON IS VERY  
ILL. CAN YOU HELP?

DON'T WORRY.  
I SHALL SEND HIM  
A SPECIAL REMEDY  
IN THE EVENING.

MY POISON NEVER  
FAILS. LET'S SEE HOW  
YOU ESCAPE MY  
CLUTCHES THIS TIME,  
ZARATHUSHTRA.  
HA! HA! HA!



THAT SAME EVENING -

THIS IS THE  
MEDICINE,  
SIR.

THANK YOU.  
I SHALL GIVE  
IT TO MY  
SON AT  
ONCE.



OH, YOU  
NAUGHTY BOY.  
YOU'VE SPILT  
THE MEDICINE.  
BUT WHAT'S  
THIS? YOUR  
FEVER HAS  
COME DOWN.



ZARATHUSHTRA SOON GREW UP  
TO BE A STURDY, CLEVER,  
HANDSOME BOY.

YOUNG MAN,  
IT'S TIME YOU  
STARTED SCHOOL.  
THE LEARNED  
BURZIN KURUS  
WILL TEACH  
YOU.



ZARATHUSHTRA WAS THE MOST  
INTELLIGENT PUPIL THAT  
BURZIN EVER HAD.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL,  
ZARATHUSHTRA. I AM INDEED  
PROUD OF YOU.



ONE DAY THE AGING  
POURUSHASP SENT FOR HIM.

ZARATHUSHTRA, WHAT  
WOULD YOU HAVE OF  
MY POSSESSIONS?

YOUR  
GIRDLE,  
FATHER.

ONLY MY  
GIRDLE?   
WHY?

WHEN I WEAR  
IT, I FEEL SO  
CONFIDENT...

... SO SURE OF WINNING  
GOD'S BATTLE AGAINST  
THE FORCES OF EVIL.

IS DUGHDPHOWA'S  
DREAM GOING TO  
COME TRUE? IS  
MY SON REALLY  
GOING TO BE THE  
FOUNDER OF A  
NEW RELIGION?

ZARATHUSHTRA LIVED A SIMPLE  
LIFE AND SPENT HIS DAYS  
HELPING THE POOR, THE SICK  
AND THE NEEDY.





HE WAS ESPECIALLY KIND TO DUMB ANIMALS.



HE PRAYED TO GOD FOR STRENGTH EVERY DAY.



ONE DAY POURUSHASP INVITED DURASROB AND THE EQUALLY EVIL BRATROKKESH HOME.

FATHER, WHY DID YOU CALL THESE SORCERERS HERE? TO PRACTISE SORCERY IS EVIL.



BE QUIET, ZARATHUSHTRA. YOU ARE FOOLISH AND IMPERTINENT.

BY ABUSING ME YOU ONLY REVEAL YOURSELF, BRATROKKESH.



THIS BOY WILL  
INDEED GROW  
UP TO BE A  
GREAT MAN.

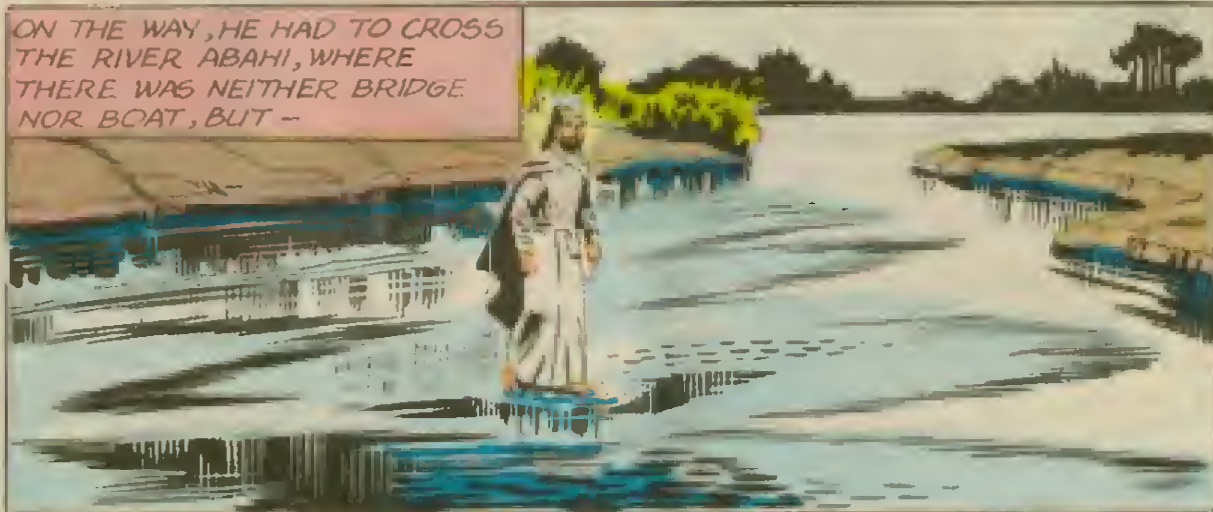
YES, HOW EASILY HE  
SAW THROUGH THE  
EVIL MAGICIAN AND  
PUT HIM IN HIS  
PLACE.



ZARATHUSHTRA LEFT HOME IN  
SEARCH OF TRUTH.



ON THE WAY, HE HAD TO CROSS  
THE RIVER ABAHI, WHERE  
THERE WAS NEITHER BRIDGE  
NOR BOAT, BUT --



HE WANDERED THROUGH  
THE LAND, STUDYING THE  
MYSTERIES OF NATURE.



THEN HE CAME TO ANOTHER  
RIVER--THE DAITI.





HE BEGAN TO CROSS IT.



THE WATER REACHED HIS KNEES...



... THEN HIS CHEST...



... AND HIS NECK. BUT NO HIGHER.



WHEN HE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE,  
HE STEPPED OUT, GLOWING WITH A  
NEW LIGHT.



THIS MIRACULOUS EPISODE INDICATED THAT THE NEW  
RELIGION ZARATHUSHTRA WAS TO FOUND. WOULD  
SPREAD THROUGH THE WORLD IN FOUR STAGES.

THE ANGEL OF THE GOOD MIND, VOHU MANO, STOOD BEFORE HIM.

ZARATHUSHTRA,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
LOOKING FOR?

FOR THE  
WILL OF GOD. YOU,  
VOHU MANO, CAN  
HELP ME.

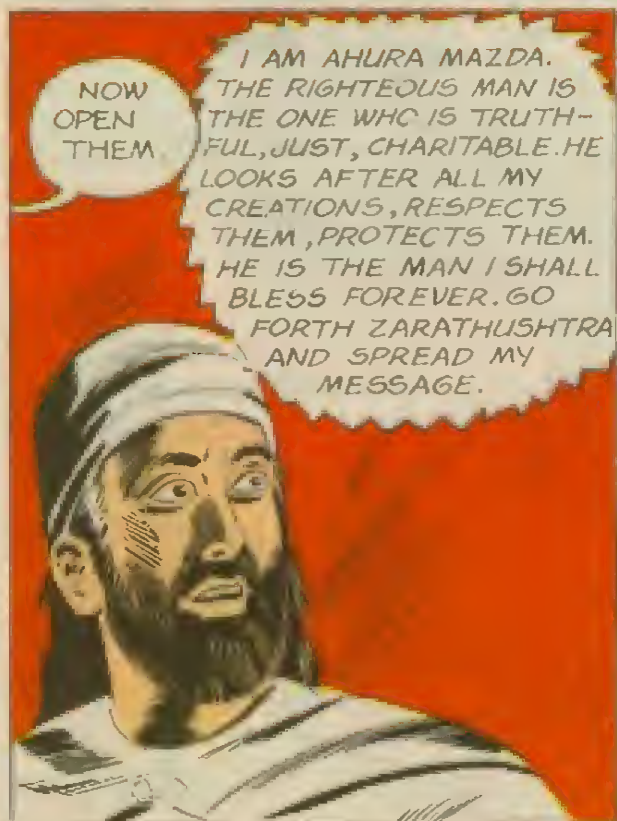


CLOSE YOUR  
EYES.



NOW  
OPEN  
THEM

I AM AHURA MAZDA.  
THE RIGHTEOUS MAN IS  
THE ONE WHO IS TRUTH-  
FUL, JUST, CHARITABLE. HE  
LOOKS AFTER ALL MY  
CREATIONS, RESPECTS  
THEM, PROTECTS THEM.  
HE IS THE MAN I SHALL  
BLESS FOREVER. GO  
FORTH ZARATHUSHTRA  
AND SPREAD MY  
MESSAGE.



I WILL, MY LORD.  
BUT GIVE ME A  
SYMBOL.

EVERY SHINING OBJECT IS  
THE SYMBOL OF GOD. FIRE  
BURNS AWAY ALL EVIL AND  
IT CAN NEVER BE MADE  
IMPURE.







ONE DAY—

COUSIN MEDIYOMAH,  
I HAVE SEEN YOU  
FOLLOWING ME.  
WHAT CAN I DO  
FOR YOU?

I WANT  
TO BE YOUR  
DISCIPLE.  
TEACH ME  
THE RELIGION  
OF AHURA  
MAZDA.

COME AND LISTEN  
CAREFULLY TO  
WHAT I HAVE  
TO SAY.

MANY YEARS LATER,  
IN THE KINGDOM OF  
BALKH IN PERSIA,  
KING GUSHTASP  
HAD A DREAM —

ZARATHUSHTRA CAME THROUGH  
THE ROOF ON A GOLDEN  
THRONE, HOLDING A BALL OF  
FIRE, THE SACRED BOOK  
(AVESTA) AND A PLANT.

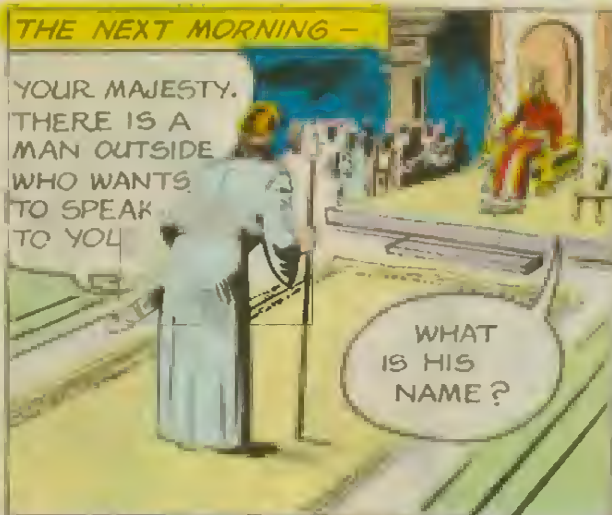
GUSHTASP PLANTED THE TREE,  
WHICH SPOKE TO HIM.

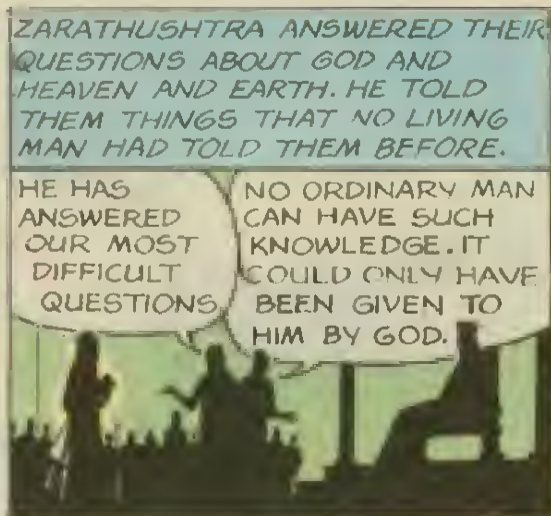
THERE IS ONLY ONE  
GOD. HE HAS TAUGHT  
ZARATHUSHTRA THE  
TRUE RELIGION.  
FOLLOW IT,  
GUSHTASP.

ZARATHUSHTRA HANDED THE  
BALL OF FIRE TO GUSHTASP.

IT DOES NOT BURN MY  
HAND, NOR CAN IT BE PUT  
OUT BY WATER OR  
EARTH. IT'S A  
MIRACLE.









THE COURTIER'S WERE JEALOUS OF ZARATHUSHTRA'S SPECIAL POSITION.

THE KING HAS GIVEN ZARATHUSHTRA A HOUSE IN THE PALACE GROUNDS.

THE KING LISTENS TO EVERYTHING HE SAYS.



WE MUST GET RID OF HIM. LET'S KILL HIM.

NO. WE'LL LOSE OUR HEADS IF THE KING FINDS OUT. I HAVE A BETTER PLAN.



THEN, THEY VISITED ZARATHUSHTRA'S HOUSE AND -

LET'S PLACE THEM HERE.

HURRY. I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT.



I HOPE, WE HAVEN'T LEFT ANY OF OUR OWN THINGS BEHIND.



THE NEXT DAY -

NOBLE, WISE AND GREAT KING GUSHTASP, FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT ZARATHUSHTRA IS REALLY A SORCERER WHO IS OUT TO DESTROY YOU AND YOUR KINGDOM.

MY ZARATHUSHTRA A SORCERER? IMPOSSIBLE!









A WEEK LATER —



WILL MY BELOVED ASP-I-SIYAH EVER GET WELL? IT'S THREE DAYS NOW, SINCE HIS KEEPER FOUND HIM WITH HIS LEGS EMBEDDED IN HIS STOMACH. NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CURE HIM, YET.

YOUR MAJESTY, SHALL I GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT? YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED FOOD FOR THREE DAYS.



NO, MY FRIEND. HOW CAN I THINK OF EATING WHEN MY BELOVED STEED CANNOT EVEN STAND.

THAT EVENING —



YOUR MAJESTY, I AM THE GUARD OUTSIDE ZARATHUSHTRA'S CELL. HE ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE COULD CURE ASP-I-SIYAH.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE? FREE HIM AND BRING HIM HERE AT ONCE.



ZARATHUSHTRA,  
YOU HAVE ONE  
LAST CHANCE  
TO PROVE THE  
GREATNESS  
OF YOUR GOD.  
CURE MY  
HORSE.

KING GUSHTASP, YOUR FAITH  
ALONE CAN SAVE ASP-I-SIYAH.  
YOUR HORSE CAN BE CURED  
ONLY IF YOU HAVE COMPLETE  
FAITH IN ME AND FULFIL  
FOUR CONDI-  
TIONS.



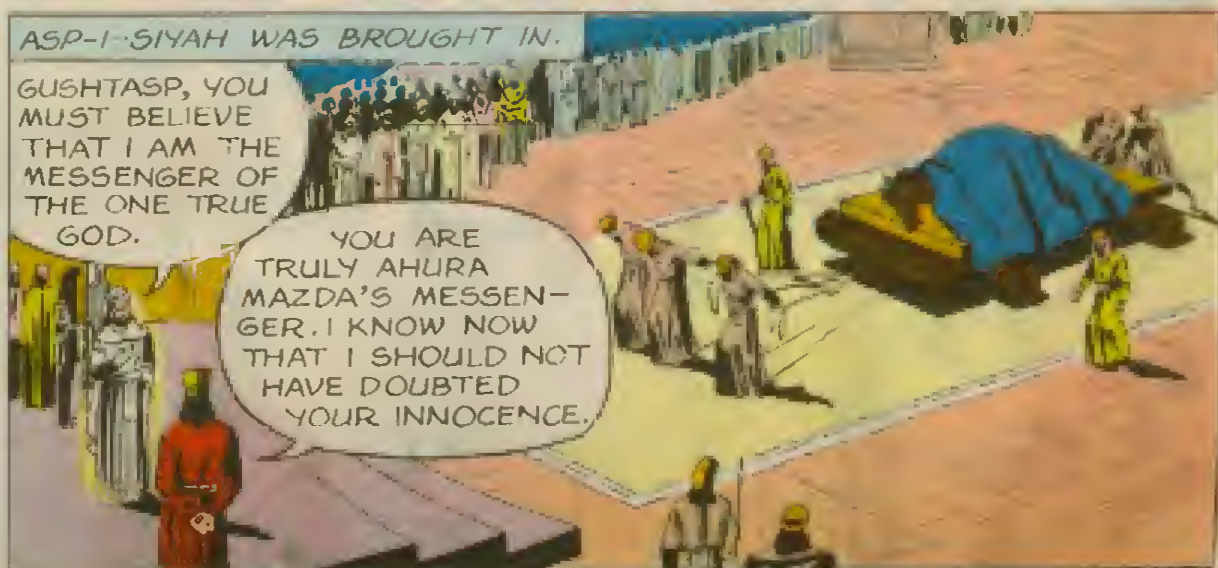
I'LL DO ANYTHING  
YOU SAY. JUST  
NAME THE  
CONDITIONS.



ASP-I-SIYAH WAS BROUGHT IN.

GUSHTASP, YOU  
MUST BELIEVE  
THAT I AM THE  
MESSENGER OF  
THE ONE TRUE  
GOD.

YOU ARE  
TRULY AHURA  
MAZDA'S MESSEN-  
GER. I KNOW NOW  
THAT I SHOULD NOT  
HAVE DOUBTED  
YOUR INNOCENCE.





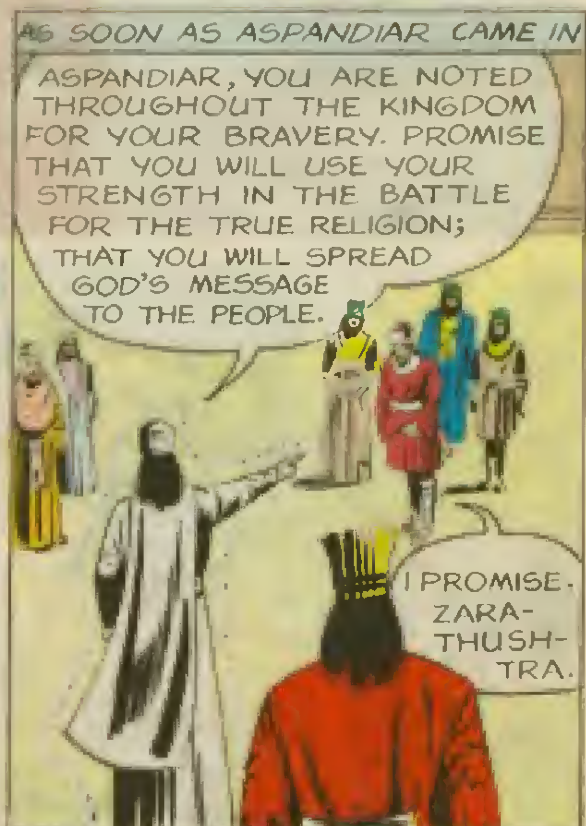
AHURA MAZDA,  
ACCEPT YOUR  
FOLLOWER,  
KING GUSHTASP.



THE  
FIRST LEG OF  
ASP-I-SIYAH IS  
FREE! GLORY TO  
ZARATHUSHTRA.



YOUR MAJESTY, SEND  
FOR YOUR SON,  
THE BRAVE  
ASPANDIAR.



AS SOON AS ASPANDIAR CAME IN

ASPANDIAR, YOU ARE NOTED  
THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM  
FOR YOUR BRAVERY. PROMISE  
THAT YOU WILL USE YOUR  
STRENGTH IN THE BATTLE  
FOR THE TRUE RELIGION;  
THAT YOU WILL SPREAD  
GOD'S MESSAGE  
TO THE PEOPLE.

I PROMISE.  
ZARA-  
THUSH-  
TRA.



AHURA MAZDA,  
MAY THE  
SECOND LEG  
OF ASP-I-SIYAH  
BE RELEASED.

ZARATHUSHTRA  
IS TRULY  
GREAT.

KING GUSHTASP,  
WITH YOUR  
PERMISSION  
I SHALL NOW  
MEET YOUR  
QUEEN.

GUARD,  
TAKE HOLY  
ZARATHUSH-  
TRA  
TO HER  
MAJESTY.

NOBLE QUEEN,  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
BLESSED WITH  
A WISE HUSBAND  
AND A BRAVE  
SON. ACKNOWL-  
EDGE YOUR  
DEBT TO GOD  
BY FOLLOWING  
HIS PATH.

I HAVE HEARD OF  
YOUR GREATNESS,  
ZARATHUSHTRA. I  
SHALL BE PROUD  
TO SERVE YOUR  
GOD.

WHEN ZARATHUSHTRA RETURNED TO THE COURT—

BELOVED ZARATHUSHTRA, ASP-I-SIYAH'S THIRD LEG HAS BEEN FREED.

BECAUSE THE THIRD CONDITION HAS BEEN FULFILLED.



NOW, PLEASE CALL THE KEEPER OF MY APARTMENT, AND QUESTION HIM AGAIN.

SUMMON THE KEEPER AT ONCE.



WHEN THE KEEPER CAME—

TELL THE TRUTH AND YOU WILL BE PARDONED. LIE, AND YOU WILL NOT LIVE.

YOUR MAJESTY, F-F-FORGIVE ME, THE BONES AND SKULLS WERE PUT IN ZARATHUSHTRA'S ROOM BY THOSE C-C-COURTIERS.



GUSHTASP WAS FURIOUS.

YOU ARE BANISHED FROM MY LAND. IF I SET EYES ON ANY OF YOU AGAIN, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR HEADS.



YOUR MAJESTY, ASP-I-SIYAH...!!





FORGIVE ME,  
ZARATHUSHTRA,  
FOR HAVING  
DOUBTED YOU.  
YOUR GOD  
AND YOU ARE  
INDEED  
GREAT.



YEARS LATER -

YOUR MAJESTY,  
FOUR MEN ON  
HORSEBACK ARE  
OUTSIDE YOUR  
GATES. I WAS  
NEARLY BLINDED  
BY THEIR  
DAZZLING  
GARMENTS.



WHO COULD  
THEY BE?  
SEND THEM  
IN.



I AM VOHU MANO,  
THE GOOD MIND.

I AM HAURVATAT,  
THAT IS  
PERFECTION.

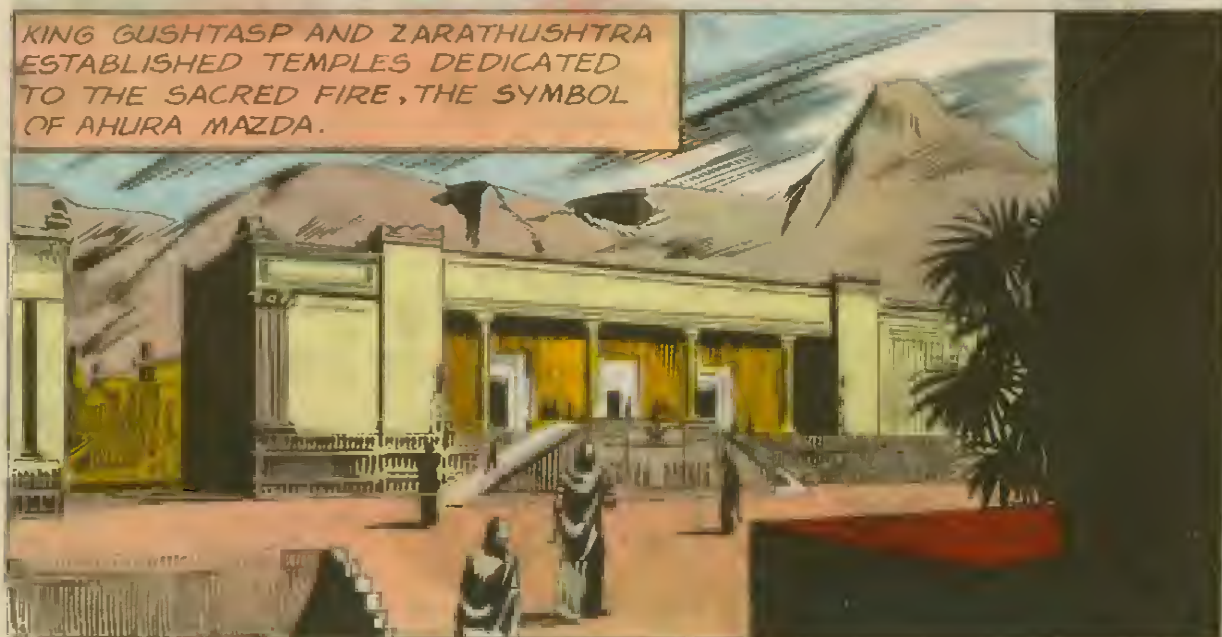
I AM ASHA  
VAHISHTA,  
RIGHTEOUS LAW  
AND ORDER.

I AM ADAR GUSHASP,  
THE SACRED FIRE.





KING GUSHTASP AND ZARATHUSHTRA ESTABLISHED TEMPLES DEDICATED TO THE SACRED FIRE, THE SYMBOL OF AHURA MAZDA.





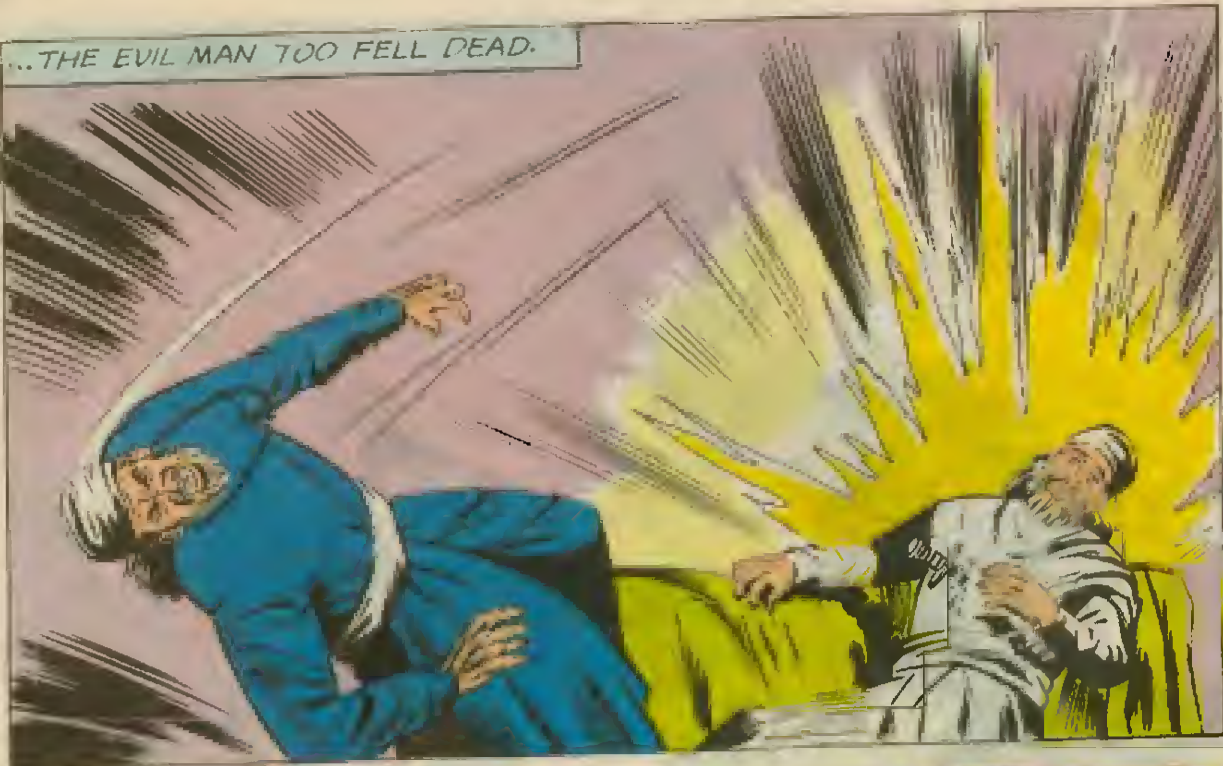
WHEN ZARATHUSHTRA WAS  
SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD—



THE MURDERER WAS A  
TURANIAN RUFFIAN.  
BUT BEFORE  
ZARATHUSHTRA  
DIED ———



...THE EVIL MAN TOO FELL DEAD.



ZARATHUSHTRA DIED, BUT THE GREAT RELIGION HE PREACHED 8000 YEARS AGO STILL LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF THOUSANDS OF ZOROASTRIANS WHO PRACTISE IT TO THIS DAY.







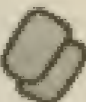
Presented to the  
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by

Willard G. Oxtoby

# FREE

## a 2's pack of Chiclets!

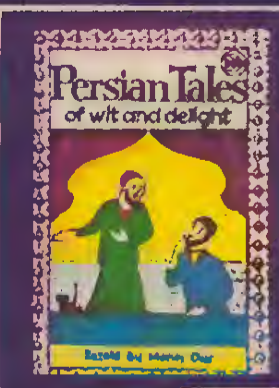
Find the lucky  YELLOW Chiclets  
in the 2's pack

### *Here's how!*

When you buy a 2's Chiclets (Peppermint, Orange, Tutti-Frutti or Pineapple) open it quick, right at the shop. Look inside. If you are lucky, you'll find yellow coloured Chiclets in the pack. For example, a 2's Orange pack may contain, not Orange, but yellow Chiclets. If you buy the lucky Chiclets pack show it to the shopkeeper immediately and he'll give you another pack of 2's Chiclets FREE!



**Hurry.** Buy a 2's Chiclets, you may be lucky!



# ECHO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

